



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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AFS

Serial No. 09/833,519

Applicant: Harry C. Merritt

Examiner: Rowan, Kurt C.

Filing Date: April 21, 2001

Art Unit: 3643

Mark: FLY CASTING TRAINING DEVICE

Appeal No.:

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

On the sixteenth day of March, 2004, Harry C. Merritt filed an Appeal of a Final Refusal in pending patent application Serial Number 09/833,519. This Notice of Appeal was accompanied by the requisite fee. The Applicant has not received anything in response to that Notice of Appeal, but the time to file the Brief is approaching. Consequently, you will find enclosed a Brief in Support of the Appeal of Harry C. Merritt filed in triplicate. Also enclosed is a check for one hundred and sixty-five dollars, the fee required for filing a Brief in Support of an Appeal. Also enclosed is a Certificate of Mailing by regular mail and a Return Receipt postcard. Please stamp the Return Receipt postcard showing date received and return it to me. If there is anything further required from me, please advise me immediately. Thank you very much for your help in this matter.

This the 12 day of May, 2004.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In Re Application of: Harry C. Merritt

Serial No. 09/833,519

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BRIEF OF APPELLANT

This is an appeal from a final rejection of the Examiner dated 17 November 2003, rejecting Claims 1-16. Claims 17-20 were allowed in this final Office Action. This Brief is accompanied by the requisite fee as set forth in § 1.17(f).

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the Applicant, Harry C. Merritt.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences that will directly affect or be affected by the Board's decision in this pending Appeal.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

This application was originally filed on April 21, 2001 with twenty claims including three

independent claims (Claims 1, 12, and 17). In the Examiner's First Office Action, Claims 6-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-3, 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), while the remaining claims (Claims 4-11, 14-20) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Applicant responded to this Office Action by amending Claims 1, 6, 12, and 17. The final Office Action of the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), while the remaining claims (Claims 4-11, 14-20) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The Applicant filed a Request for a Continued Examination. The Examiner responded to this Request for a Continued Examination with claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and, as before, Claims 1-3, 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), while the remaining claims (Claims 4-11, 14-20) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The Applicant responded to the Examiner's Request for a Continued Examination Office Action by amending Claim 2 to overcome the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112. The Examiner entered a final Office Action on the Request for Continued Examination again rejecting Claims 1-3, 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and rejecting Claims 4-11, 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The Examiner indicated Claims 17-20 were allowable. The current status of claims as set out in the Examiner's last Office Action with the mailing date of 11-17-03 is as follows:

Claims objected to - none;

Allowed Claims - 17-20;

Claims finally rejected - 1-16

Claims 1-3, 12-13 under 102(b); Claims 4-11, 14-16 under 103(a).

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All amendments offered by the Applicant have been entered by the Examiner and there are no pending amendments. Claims set out in the Appendix include all entered amendments.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Harry C. Merritt has invented an apparatus and a method using that apparatus to teach the basic start/stop motion necessary to produce a “tight loop” fly cast. It is important to understand the distinction between casting with a spinning rod and reel and a bait casting rod and reel as opposed to a fly casting rod and reel. Using a spinning or casting rod and reel, throwing the lure is like throwing any other object but with the aid of a rod to extend the arc of a throwing motion (Application, page 2, lines 1-4). However, in fly fishing it is the line that is thrown not the lure at the end of the line. Using a spinning or casting rod and reel, the lure is thrown and the line goes along for the ride. The line is an impediment to the carry of the lure. This is in contrast to fly casting where the line is thrown and the lure goes along for the ride. In fly casting, the lure is an impediment to the cast (Application, page 2, lines 6-12). Consequently, learning to use a casting or spinning rod and reel is simple and easy enough for a child to learn it in a few minutes (Application, page 2, lines 22-24). However, learning to make an appropriate fly cast is far more difficult and, in fact, counter-intuitive to the skills required in casting using a conventional casting or spinning rod (Application, page 3, lines 16-24; page 4, lines 1-7).

The Merritt invention is designed to teach the basic fly-cast motion. This basic motion produces a “tight loop” configuration in the fly line, hence the term “tight loop” is a generic description for a good cast using fly fishing equipment (Application page 6, lines 9-13, Figures 1A and 1B). A tight loop cast is made with a speed-up and stop motion with a locked wrist. In a conventional throwing motion, the arm and the object to be thrown describe an arc (See Figure 1A), but in a tight loop cast, the motion is a punching motion without the use of the wrist (Application, page 10, lines 2-16, Figure 1B). The current invention is a simple but ingenious design consisting of a carefully designed tube approximately five inches in overall length. The tube is bent a predetermined angle of 90 degrees plus an additional angle of A. The tube is bent at the

approximate mid-point (Application, Figure 2, page 10, lines 17-24; page 11 and page 12, lines 1-18). As is explained in the application, the angle A is necessary to compensate for the flex of a rod. The more flex the rod has, the greater the angle A will be. For an inflexible rod, an angle of 90 degrees in the bend in the tube is sufficient (Application, page 12, lines 9-18). A throwing projectile carefully designed to function with the tube (Figure 2A). The projectile uses a bore to mount on the tube (Figure 2). When the fly rod on which the tube and throwing projectile are mounted is at rest, the throwing projectile will remain in place mounted on the tube using the bore (Figure 2). A collar holds the throwing projectile in place on the mounting tube (Figure 2, #15). As a user makes a quick stop and start motion, characteristic of a motion needed to produce a tight loop, the rod will accelerate forward, as shown in Figure 3, bending under the force of the forward acceleration. The throwing projectile will remain in place until the abrupt stop motion is made. The momentum created by the forward motion will cause the tip of the rod to flex forward even as the handle stops its forward motion. However, the throwing projectile will continue with the same forward momentum created by the initial quick, forward punching motion. The tube and bore of the throwing projectile are designed in conjunction with the angle of the bend in the tube to release the throwing projectile from the rod at the appropriate time when a correct start/stop casting motion is made. Consequently, when the appropriate start/stop tight loop casting motion is made, the throwing projectile (50) will be propelled forward on an approximate horizontal line (Figure 3). However, if the inappropriate motion is made, the throwing projectile will not be propelled forward, but rather downwardly or upwardly at a steep angle rather than parallel to the direction desired for the cast (Figure 1A).

ISSUES

1. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Haber, U.S. Patent #2,893,158. It is the examiner's position that the doughnut shaped apertured magnetic tip member (17) is an "elongated piece" as disclosed and claimed in

Applicant's invention. The Examiner further reasons that the body portion (28) of the magnetic tip member (17) is a throwing projectile section. The Examiner calls the Haber disk (36) a throwing projectile. The Examiner states that the Haber brace (27), which supports the tip (17) is a first mounting section of the applicant's invention. The Examiner further transforms the casting fishing rod of the Haber invention to a fly rod, reasoning that: "The rod of Haber can be considered as a fly rod since no structure is recited to differentiate a fly rod from a spinning rod." The Examiner then asserts that the "rod of the Haber will function as a fly rod with a fly reel and line."

2. Claims 4-11 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haber, U.S. Patent #2,893,158. The Examiner reasons that the Haber invention makes a casting motion and throws a projectile (36) from the throwing projectile section. In reference to Claims 4 and 19, the Examiner states Haber shows an angle of 90 degrees that would have been obvious to employ other angles since the function is the same. In reference to Claim 5, the Examiner reasons that the projectile of Haber most closely approximates a particular type of line. In reference to Claims 6 and 10, the Examiner reasons Haber shows a means for stopping and references #29 in the Haber patent. In reference to Claims 7 and 14, Haber does not show a spherical throwing projectile, but the Examiner reasons it would have been obvious to employ a spherical throwing projectile. In reference to Claim 11, the Examiner reasons Haber shows a means (37) for holding the projectile in place against the means for stopping (29).

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

For this Appeal, Claims 5, 6, 7, and 8 are grouped together and the patentability of Claims 6, 7, and 8 stand or fall upon the patentability of Claim 5.

For this Appeal, Claims 9, 10, and 11 are grouped together and the patentability of Claims 10 and 11 stand or fall upon the patentability of Claim 9.

For this Appeal, Claims 13, 14, and 15 are grouped together. The patentability of Claims 14 and 15 stand or fall upon the patentability of Claim 13.

ARGUMENT

The only reference used by the Examiner is the Haber Casting Fishing Rod invention, U.S. Patent #2,893,158. Because this is the only prior art reference at issue in this case, it is worth considering in some detail. The Haber device is designed to avoid fishing line backlashes (Haber, Col. 1, lines 31-69) while the device is used with a fishing line. The Haber device replaces the terminal ring guide on a standard casting or spinning rod. It consists of an apertured magnetic tip member (17). An integral part of the apertured tip member (17) is a magnetic material body portion (28). The fishing line extends upwardly through the ring guides (20, 21, 22) on a conventional casting or fishing rod and through the apertured portion (23) of the magnetic tip member (17) (Haber, Col. 2, lines 44-49, Figure 1). The line (19) is attached to a conventional sinker (24) and hook (25). In casting, the line (19) unreels itself and moves through the rings (20, 21, 22) and the magnetic tip member (17) (Haber, Col. 2, lines 50-54). The magnetized body portion (28) of the tip (17) magnetically attracts an iron or steel disk (36). This disk (36) is held in place against the tip (17) by the magnetic force and the disk (36) is attached to the fishing line (19). Haber explains in a casting movement the weight of the disk (36) and the sinker (24) will cause the disk (36) to be suddenly released from the magnetic grip. The sudden operative release of the line will cause a positive outward movement of the line (19) without any backlash or line entanglements and without a need to control the tension in the line (19) at the moment of the throw. Use of the Haber device means a more effective cast requiring less skill than with conventional casting rods not equipped with the Haber apertured tip member (17) and disk (36) (Haber, Column 3, lines 41-53).

Claim Rejections § 102

The Examiner used the Haber device to reject Claims 1, 2, and 3 and Claims 12 and 13 in the application at issue under § 102. It is, of course, basic patent law there can be no anticipation under § 102(b) if there is an exclusion of a claimed element from the prior art reference. Atlas Powder Company v. E.I. du Pont, de Nemours & Co., 224 USPQ 409, 411 (1984). Moreover, in terms of interpreting claims, each word of a claim must have a meaning and be given effect. Environmental Instrument v. Sutron, 877 F.2d 1561, 1564 (Fed. Circ. 1989). Using these standards, compare the Haber reference to Claim 1 of the current application. Claim 1 requires a throwing projectile (50) with a bore (55) therethrough, an elongated piece (12) having a mounting section (13) and a throwing projectile section (14), and means for mounting (24) said elongated piece (12) using the mounting section to the terminal end of a fly rod. The elongated piece (12) is mounted on the terminal end of a fly rod without removing or modifying any hardware on the fly rod and the throwing projectile (50) slides onto the throwing projectile section (14) of the elongated piece (12) through the throwing projectile bore (55). This invention enables a fly rod to be used as a device for teaching casting a fly line without an actual use of a fly line.

It is immediately obvious that the Haber reference does not disclose an elongated piece (12), as described in the Applicant's invention and as is claimed in Claim 1. Second, the elongated piece (12) of Claim 1 is further limited in that it is required to have a mounting section (13) that will mount on the end of a fly rod without removing or modifying any hardware on said fly rod and the elongated piece (12) is required to have a throwing projectile section (14) in a cooperative relationship with a throwing projectile (50) that mounts on the elongated piece throwing projectile section (14) through a bore (55) in the throwing projectile. The Haber apertured tip (17) lacks these features. Third, the Haber reference does not have a throwing projectile with a bore which mounts on the elongated piece by the throwing projectile bore. Because the Haber reference has none of these elements described in the application and claimed in Claim 1, it cannot serve as a § 102

reference for Claim 1.

Claim 2 adds requirement that the mounting section of the elongated piece is bent at a predetermined angle so, when mounted, the elongated piece is at said predetermined angle to a terminal end of a fly rod. Without belaboring the obvious, the Haber tip (17) is not bent at a predetermined angle to the fly rod. Insofar as there is a showing of any angle in the Haber device, it actually teaches away from the current invention. In the Haber reference, the line (19) is used in an ordinary cast with a sinker (24) and hook. The line (19) is essentially parallel to the rod (15). The aperture (23) in the apertured tip member (17) is parallel to the casting rod in order to allow the line to freely pass through the apertured tip member (17) as the cast is made. Haber is not a § 102 reference for Claim 2.

Claim 3 adds a further limitation that requires the predetermined angle to be at least 90°. Since Haber does not teach a predetermined angle, it obviously does not teach a predetermined angle of at least 90°. Consequently, there is no § 102 basis based on the Haber reference for rejection of claims of this application.

Claims 12 and 13 were also rejected under § 102 solely on the Haber reference. Just as it was argued for independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2 and 3, the Haber reference simply does not disclose or teach claimed elements of Claims 12 and 13. Claim 12 requires means for mounting a throwing projectile onto a fly rod without removing or modifying any hardware on said fly rod. To interpret the means for language, one looks to 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 6, which requires that construing the means plus function language requires use of the specification to interpret the language in light of the corresponding structure, material, or acts described within the specification to the extent the specification provides such disclosure. In Re Donaldson Co., Inc., 60 F.3d. 1189, 29 U.S.P.Q. 2d. 1945 (1994). In the current application, the means disclosed is

the elongated tube, which is slid through the terminal eyelet of the fly rod and attached by any convenient method to the fly rod. Once the tube is in place, the throwing projectile will mount on the tube using the throwing projectile bore. This is in contrast to the Haber reference where the apertured magnetic tip member (17) replaces the terminal eyelet on the casting rod (15) of the Haber invention. The Haber disk (36) is fixedly attached to a fishing line (19). Consequently, the disk (36) of the Haber reference is not a throwing projectile, but rather becomes an integral part of the casting line (19) and is used in conjunction with the casting line to prevent the line (19) from tangling in a backlash. Consequently, the Haber reference lacks a throwing projectile or a means for mounting the throwing projectile on a fly rod without modifying or removing any hardware from the fly rod.

Claim 13 adds to the limitations of Claim 12. The further limitation that the throwing projectile is of a predetermined shape, size, and weight so as to most closely approximate casting a particular type of fly line. First, the Haber reference does not have a throwing projectile (50). Insofar as the disk (36) can be considered a throwing projectile (the Applicant traverses this conclusion), it is not used to approximate the weight of any particular line. Rather, it is attached to the line (19) and is an integral part of an ordinary cast. Consequently, the Haber reference does not disclose a throwing projectile of a particular shape, size, and weight to approximate a particular type of fly line. Hence, the Haber reference is not a § 102 bar to Claim 13.

Claim Rejections § 103

Recognizing that some of Applicant's claims cannot be anticipated by the Haber reference, the Examiner nevertheless rejects these claims under § 103. However, the Examiner does not offer any other reference other than the Haber reference. Claims 4-11 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Haber.

Claim 4 adds that the predetermined angle of Claim 3 has an additional angle of “A°.” The “A°” is a predetermined amount based on the stiffness of a fly rod. The stiffer the fly rod, the smaller an angle is required to be. This angle and its function is demonstrated in Figures 2 and 3. Because Haber does not have an elongated piece bent at a predetermined angle with a throwing projectile mounted on throwing projectile section of elongated piece by means of a bore, Haber does nothing to suggest utility of bending the elongated piece at an angle of $90^\circ + A^\circ$. The Examiner’s rejection is not helpful in understanding the basis of the rejection. The Examiner states: “In reference to Claims 4, 19, Haber shows an angle of 90° (sic) but it would have been obvious to employ other angles since the function is the same.” First, Haber doesn’t show an angle of 90° . The Examiner does not state where in the Haber reference an angle of 90° can be found or how it functions relative to the Haber reference. The additional angle “A” of Claim 4 is explained on page 12 of the application. Different flexes of rods will bend differently during the desired start/stop or “punch” motion taught by the Merritt invention. In order for the throwing projectile (50) to be thrown from the throwing projectile section (14) of the elongated piece (12), compensation is required for the flexibility of the rod, which is represented by the angle “A°” (See Figure 3). It is clear the Haber reference could be attached to a completely inflexible steel rod and would still function to prevent backlashes. Consequently, there is no teaching in the Haber reference that suggests either the angle of 90° or the angle “A°” which is required to compensate for different flexes of fly rods. Consequently, the Examiner’s conclusion that: “It would have been obvious to employ other angles since the function is the same” neither states where in the Haber reference the function of teaching fly casts with different flex fly rods is taught nor how the angle “A°” is made obvious by any teaching of the Haber reference.

Claim 5 of the current application add a further limitation that the throwing projectile (50) be of a predetermined size, shape, and weight to most closely approximate casting a particular type of fly line. The value of this to a user of the Merritt invention is explained on page 13 describing

the differences between a #6 fly line, a #8 fly line, and a #10 fly line (Application page 13, lines 12-25). This allows experienced fishermen to closely approximate the motion required, not just for generally casting a fly line, but for particularly casting a particular weight fly line. The Examiner stated: “In reference to Claim 5, inherently the throwing projectile of Haber most closely approximates a particular type of line.” First, Haber doesn’t have a throwing projectile but a disk (36). Second, the disk (36) is attached to a line when in use and does nothing to approximate the weight of the line in a particular cast. The assertion of the Examiner that the “throwing projectile of Haber approximates a particular type of line” is unsupported. For purposes of this Appeal, Claims 6, 7, and 8 are grouped with Claim 5.

Claim 9 adds the limitation that the particular weight of throwing projectile is determined by the weight of 30 feet of a predetermined type of fly line. The importance of this is explained on page 14 of the application (Application page 14, lines 1-16). By approximating the weight and air resistance of the first 30 feet of a particular type of fly line, use of the throwing projectile will give a fisherman a general idea of the distance he would have received in a cast with a particular type of fly line. This is an advantage to a more experienced fly fisherman who may wish to practice a particular cast for a particular fly line. Referencing Claim 9 the Examiner simply asserts that: “Size would be determined through routine experimentation since no showing of unexpected results was made.” There is no showing why the Haber reference suggests any need for experimentation. The Haber reference does not teach casting the fly line, much less the need for the throwing projectile (50) to approximate the weight of a particular fly line. Without such a suggestion in the Haber reference, there can be no assumption that there is a need for experimentation. Consequently, the Haber reference is not a § 103 basis to reject Claim 9. For the purposes of this Appeal, Claims 10 and 11 are grouped with Claim 9.

The Appellant groups Claims 14 and 15 with Claim 13 for purposes of patentability. The

Applicant repeats by reference here the arguments previously made in support of Claim 13.

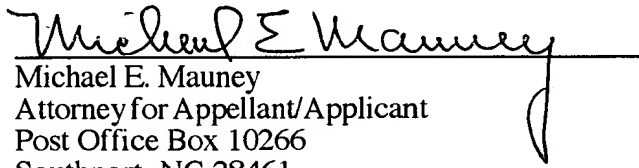
Patentability of Claims 14 and 15 are grouped with Claim 13.

Claim 16 again adds the limitation that the throwing projectile is based on the weight of 30 feet of a predetermined type of fly line. Thus, Claim 16 adds the same limitation as does Claim 9. The arguments made in support of the patentability of Claim 9 over the Haber as a § 103 reference, are incorporated by reference herein. For brevity, the Applicant/Appellant will not repeat those arguments here.

CONCLUSION

The Appellant/Applicant, Harry Merritt, has fully answered each rejection of the claims at issue in this Appeal. The claims are all in a condition for allowance. The Applicant requests the Board reverse the rejection of Claims 1-16 and allow all claims to pass to issue.

This the 12 day of May, 2004.


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APPENDIX

CLAIMS

1. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line comprising:
 - (a) a throwing projectile with a bore therethrough;
 - (b) an elongated piece, said elongated piece having a first mounting section for mounting the elongated piece on a terminal end of a fly rod without removing or modifying any hardware on said fly rod and a second throwing projectile section whereby said throwing projectile slides onto said throwing projectile section through said throwing projectile bore;
 - (c) means for mounting said elongated piece using said first mounting section to a terminal end of a fly rod;

whereby said fly rod can be used as a device to teach casting a fly line without actual use of a fly line.

2. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 1, wherein in said mounting section portion of said elongated piece is bent at a predetermined angle whereby said second throwing projectile section is at said predetermined angle to a terminal end of a fly rod when said elongated piece is mounted on a terminal end of a fly rod.

3. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 2 wherein said predetermined angle is at least 90° .

4. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 3 wherein said predetermined angle is $90^\circ + A^\circ$, A° a predetermined amount based on the stiffness of a fly rod with which said training device is to be used.

5. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 4 wherein said throwing projectile is a predetermined shape, size, and weight so as to most closely approximate casting a particular type of fly line.
6. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 5 wherein said elongated piece further includes means for stopping movement of said throwing projectile onto said throwing projectile section of said elongated piece.
7. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 6 wherein said predetermined shape of said throwing projectile is approximately spherical.
8. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 7 wherein said predetermined size of said throwing projectile is between one and three inches in diameter.
9. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 8 wherein said predetermined weight of said throwing projectile is determined by the weight of 30 feet of a predetermined type of fly line for which the throwing projectile is to be used to simulate a cast.
10. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 9 wherein said means for stopping is a collar placed around said throwing projectile section of said elongated piece.
11. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 10 wherein said elongated piece further comprises means for holding said throwing projectile in place against said means for stopping whereby said throwing projectile is held in place against a force of gravity, but

said means for holding is calibrated to release said throwing projectile when said training device in use during a practice cast.

12. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line comprising:

- (a) a throwing projectile;
- (b) means for mounting said throwing projectile onto a fly rod without removing or modifying any hardware on said fly rod whereby said throwing projectile is projected forward in an approximate direction that a fly line would be projected forward when an appropriate casting motion is made using a fly rod;

whereby said fly rod can be used to teach casting of a fly line without actual use of a fly line.

13. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 12 wherein said throwing projectile is of a predetermined shape, size, and weight so as to most closely approximate casting a particular type of fly line.

14. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 13 wherein said predetermined shape of said throwing projectile is approximately spherical.

15. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 14 wherein said predetermined size of said throwing projectile is between one and three inches in diameter.

16. A training device to teach the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 15 wherein said predetermined weight of said throwing projectile is determined by the weight of 30 feet of a predetermined type of fly line for which the throwing projectile is to be used to simulate a cast.

17. A method for teaching the proper motion for casting a fly line comprising:

- (a) mounting an elongated piece on a terminal end of a fly rod without modifying or removing any hardware on said fly rod;
- (b) mounting a throwing projectile on a throwing projectile section of said elongated piece;
- (c) making a casting motion of a fly rod with said elongated piece and said throwing projectile mounted thereon and without using a fly line;
- (d) observing the results of movement of said throwing projectile;
- (e) repeating said casting motion if the trajectory of the throwing projectile is satisfactory or changing said casting motion if trajectory of said throwing projectile is unsatisfactory;
- (f) repeating said casting motion until the user is able to consistently achieve a satisfactory trajectory of said throwing projectile.

18. A method for teaching the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 18 wherein said method further includes bending said elongated piece at an angle of at least 90° .

19. A method for teaching the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 18 wherein said method further includes bending said elongated piece at an angle of $90^\circ + A^\circ$, A° a predetermined amount based on the stiffness of a fly rod with which said training device is to be used.

20. A method for teaching the proper motion for casting a fly line of Claim 19 wherein said method further includes making said throwing projectile approximately spherical in shape and between one and three inches in diameter.